

Attorney Docket No. 33449.8029.US00

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number (571) 273-1141, Attention: Examiner Ana M. Fortuna, on:

Date: January 26, 2006By: 

Rena lov

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: MURALIDHARA ET AL.  
APPLICATION NO.: 09/909,488  
FILED: JULY 20, 2001  
FOR: NANOFILTRATION WATER-SOFTENING  
APPARATUS AND METHOD

EXAMINER: ANA M. FORTUNA  
ART UNIT: 1723  
CONF. NO.: 2586

TRANSMITTAL OF AMENDED DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.  
RULE 1.132 OF H.S. MURALIDHARA

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In paragraph 3 of the "Amended Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. Rule 1.132 of H.S. Muralidhara" submitted herewith, the date of graduation is changed from 1977 to 1978 to reflect the correct year of Dr. Muralidhara's graduation. No other changes have been made to the Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: January 26, 2006  
Joseph P. Hamilton  
Registration No. 51,770**Correspondence Address:**

Customer No. 34055  
Perkins Coie LLP  
Patent - LA  
P.O. Box 1208  
Seattle, WA 98111-1208  
Phone: (310) 788-9900  
Fax: (310) 788-3399

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

**MURALIDHARA et al.****Serial No.: 09/909,488****Filed: July 20, 2001****For: NANOFILTRATION WATER-  
SOFTENING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD****Group Art Unit: 1723****Examiner: Fortuna, Ana M.****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****FEB 01 2006****AMENDED DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.  
RULE 1.132 OF H.S. MURALIDHARA**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara, declare that:

1. I am a citizen of the United States having a residence at 2325 Yuma Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55447. I submit this declaration in support of the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/909,488 (the "'488 Application").

2. I am employed by Cargill, Inc. ("Cargill") located in Minneapolis, Minnesota as Vice-President, Corporate Plant Operations/Process Technology. I am one of the inventors of the '488 Application. The '488 Application is assigned to Cargill.

3. I graduated from West Virginia University, in 1977 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. I have over 25 years of experience in membrane processes. My background includes over 27 years of industrial experience in chemical, food processing, and environmental engineering. My research focus is in separations technology, including membrane technologies, membrane fouling research, separation and purification of natural products, and water related processes. I am a co-inventor of over 23 issued U.S. patents and 15 patent applications, and have edited two books on advances in solid/liquid separation.

4. In accordance with the duty to disclose information material to patentability under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, I am not aware of any information that has not been previously disclosed that may be considered material to patentability regarding the use of the Koch SR1 membrane for the softening of potable water under the conditions as presently claimed.

5. Attached as Exhibit A is a document titled "Koch Membrane Systems," <<http://www.kochchemtech.com/KMS.htm>>, last viewed January 20, 2006, which reflects a copyright of 2001 and suggests several uses for Koch membranes, none of

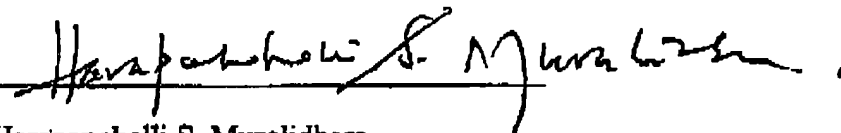
which include the softening of potable water under any conditions, let alone the conditions presently claimed.

6. Attached as Exhibit B is a document titled "Membranes for Food Use" dated 1999, which suggests the use of the SR1 membrane for dairy applications, not for the softening of potable water under any conditions, let alone the conditions presently claimed.

7. Attached as Exhibit C is a release dated July 8, 2002 -- approximately one year after the filing date of the present application -- titled "Koch Membrane Systems Introduces the SR2 Nanofiltration Membrane."

I, Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara, having acknowledged that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U. S. C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the Application or any patent issuing thereon, declare that all statements made above of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made above upon information and believe are believed to be true.

Dated: January 25, 2006

By:   
Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

**MURALIDHARA et al.**

Serial No.: 09/909,488

Filed: July 20, 2001

For: NANOFILTRATION WATER-  
SOFTENING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Fortuna, Ana M.

**RECEIVED**  
**CENTRAL FAX CENTER****FEB 01 2006****DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. RULE 1.132  
OF H.S. MURALIDHARA**Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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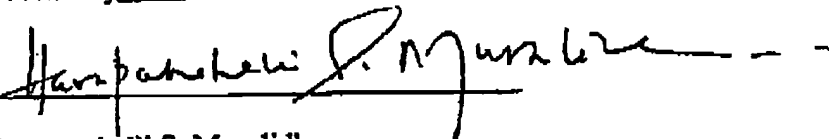
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I, Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara, having acknowledged that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U. S. C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the Application or any patent issuing thereon, declare that all statements made above of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made above upon information and believe are believed to be true.

Dated: January 24, 2006

By:   
Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara



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